

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 1, 2005 (BOS Mtg. 3/15/05)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Route 17 Widening - Wolftrap Road to Route 134

As the Board is aware, the Virginia Department of Transportation is proceeding with the Preliminary Engineering phase of the project to widen Route 17 from four to six lanes between Wolftrap Road and Route 134. Although sufficient construction funding has not yet been allocated (approximately \$14 million in additional funding is needed), VDOT is proceeding under a schedule that will have the design and right-of-way acquisition phases completed by 2007 so that the project will be ready to be advertised for construction in the event additional allocations are approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

Preliminary plans for the widening project were displayed for public review at a Community Participation Meeting conducted by VDOT on October 13, 2004. The meeting was well attended and a number of comments were received, evaluated and responded to by VDOT. The majority of the concerns noted were by property owners being impacted by the right-of-way expansion or by the proposed entrance consolidations. As a result of those comments, VDOT has made several adjustments in the plans to reduce the amount of right-of-way expansion, thus reducing impacts on parking and circulation for a number of properties.

Major features of the proposed widening project include:

- Provision of six travel lanes (3 northbound/3 southbound) between Route 134 and Wolftrap Road;
- A curb and gutter cross-section and underground stormwater drainage system, thus eliminating most of the median and shoulder open ditches including, for example, the elimination of the very deep roadside ditch in front of the York Lanes Bowling Center;
- A raised, grassed center median protected by curbing;
- Longer left turn lanes at several intersections and median breaks to provide greater storage capacity and minimize blockages of travel lanes;
- Greater curb radii at intersections and driveways, thus facilitating better turning movements;
- Consolidation of multiple entrances serving single properties;
- Establishment of shared entrances to serve adjoining properties;
- Elimination of several driveways at locations that create safety hazards;
- Installation of a separate multi-use trail (pedestrians and bicycles) between Mill Road and Showalter Road, including a barrier-separated lane on the new bridge that will cross the Poquoson River / Harwoods Mill Dam spillway; and

- Installation of underground utilities on the segment between Wolftrap Road and a point opposite the York Lanes Bowling Center (thanks to a substantial investment by the Board of Supervisors in a Revenue Sharing Program project established for this purpose).

A major milestone event in the project will occur on March 8, 2005 when VDOT conducts the Design Public Hearing at Grafton High/Middle School. That hearing will provide an additional opportunity for citizens and property owners to express their opinions about the widening plans. Subsequent to that hearing, VDOT staff will finalize the design plans, incorporating any public hearing comments deemed appropriate, and forward them to the Department's Chief Engineer for consideration. Once the Chief Engineer approves the plans, the right-of-way acquisition process will begin.

An official County position, documented through a resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors, must accompany the submission to the Chief Engineer. Recognizing that this project, albeit covering a shorter segment of Route 17 than desired, has been a County priority for almost 20 years, I have prepared attached proposed Resolution No. R05-39 for the Board's consideration. This resolution would support the proposed widening project as shown on the plans presented for public hearing on March 8, 2005 and would request that landscaping for the center median be included in the project plans and be funded as a project cost. I recommend its adoption so that it can be transmitted to VDOT for inclusion in the official project record.

Carter/3337

Attachment:

- Proposed Resolution No. R05-39